

Standard – TF-I.B. – Demonstrate continual growth in technology knowledge and skills to stay abreast of current and emerging technologies.

Activity - Web 2.0 Workshop presented by TCEA – June 2010

WEB 2.0 is a new way of using the Internet. It provides users with an emerging set of Internet-based tools and an emerging philosophy on how to use them. The technologies included by Web 2.0 tools included blogs, wikis, tags, RSS, and social bookmarking. The philosophy focuses on the idea that the people do not have to passively access the internet for information but can use the internet to active contributors and collaborators in their own communities and globally with participants worldwide. This philosophy is an especially important one for educators to embrace and begin to use in the classroom.

The Texas Computer Educators Association is especially interested in presenting this new philosophy to its members. I attended a 6 hour workshop where the WEB 2.0 technology was presented. As part of the presentation the assembled group in a group discussion of the tool via a WEB 2.0 tool, TodaysMeet.com. This tool set the tone for the rest of the workshop as all participants were able to participate in a live stream to make comments and ask questions. The workshop leader was able to quickly assess questions about the topic used that to tailor her presentation and address audience needs.

We left the workshop with a wealth of information and access to NiceNet, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free services to the Internet community. With access I have a repository of ideas and uses of the WEB 2.0 tools that is endless. In addition, we were provided with a comprehensive list of tools available to educators. Throughout the presentation we were able to individually access a variety of tools and investigate their uses. This was extremely helpful as this also included round table conversations with other educators on appropriate lessons to use the different tools.

As I move forward in my role as a technology leader in my school the challenge will be to introduce the tools to teachers and help them learn how to use them and when. An additional challenge will be to keep abreast of new tools as they emerge. I see this as a collaborative effort as more teachers discover and use the tools and then share with other teachers.